

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace Paragraph [0013] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

**[0013]** Methods for making the CMC of the present invention are also provided. The methods of the present invention comprise providing a sol-gel matrix and mixing or blending alumina powder into the matrix. The alumina powder preferably comprises from about 30 wt% to about 60 wt% of the blended mixture. In a preferred embodiment, the alumina powder that is mixed into the sol has a size less than or equal to about 1.5 microns and ~~preferably~~ preferably from about 0.1 microns to about 1.0 microns. If necessary, the pH of the mixture is adjusted to prevent gelling by adding acid or base to the mixture. The sol-gel mixture is then ball milled or high shear mixed to remove any soft agglomerates that form, producing a homogeneous suspension. In a further embodiment, this homogeneous solution is then infiltrated using a doctor blade casting set up into a suitable ceramic cloth or fabric. Layers of infiltrated fabrics are laid up and placed in a vacuum bag, cured with or without pressure from a press or autoclave, then de-bagged and fired.